

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07  
FEAE-00 ERDA-05 /114 W  
-----084755 261859Z /43

R 261205Z JUL 77  
FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7491  
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOMBAY 1779

PARIS FOR NYE

E.O. 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, IN  
SUBJ: INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

REF: BOMBAY 1192

1. THERE FOLLOWS UPDATE OF BOMBAY'S 1192 AS REQUESTED PARA 9-B REFTEL.
  2. MAJOR EVENT BEARING ON INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY SINCE SUBMISSION OF BOMBAY 1192 HAS OF COURSE BEEN PRIME MINISTER DESAI'S REJECTION OF MRS. GANDHI'S PNE AND HIS PUBLICLY ENUNCIATED RESERVATIONS ABOUT FUTURE TESTS. PM'S MOVE CLOSER TOWARD US POSITION ON THESE MATTERS HAS HOWEVER BEEN OFFSET TO SOME EXTENT BY PROPONENTS OF INDEPENDENT INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY WHO HAVE ARTICULATED THEIR OPPOSITION TO DISCRIMINATION INHERENT IN NPT AND FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS.
  3. IT SEEMS TO CONGEN THAT NET EFFECT OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS IS TO MAKE IT EASIER TO PLAN ON ASSUMPTION OF NO MORE INDIAN PNE'S EVEN THOUGH DEFINITIVE FORMAL RENUNCIATION REMAINS UNLIKELY. PM'S POSITIO
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ALSO SHOULD FACILITATE BRINGING INDIA INTO CLOSER COOPERATION WITH SUCH EXERCISES AS INFCEP AND NULCEAR EXPORT CONTROLS, EVEN THOUGH THERE STILL REMAINS SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION TO FORMAL INDIAN ADHERENCE TO THE BODIES RUNNING THESE EXERCISES. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE LIKELY TO CAUSE THE GOI TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR TANGIBLE STEPS FORWARD ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF NUCLEAR DIS-

ARMAMENT BEFORE INDIA WOULD TAKE SUCH A BASIC STEP AS PUTTING ALL OF ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. IT REMAINS UNLIKELY THAT INDIA WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE CTB WITHOUT OTHER BASIC STEPS TOWARD NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT.

4. PM'S POSITION SHOULD BRIGHTEN PROSPECTS FOR IMMEDIATE PROGRESS ON SOME OF OUR MORE LIMITED GOALS IN NON-PROLIFERATION AREA, SUCH AS INHIBITING THE EXTENSION OF REPROCESSING IN INDIA AND SAFEGUARDING THOSE FACILITIES WHICH WERE CONSTRUCTED WITH SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN HELP. PM NOT HAVE A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF INDIA'S CURRENT OPPOSITION TO EXTENDING SAFEGUARDS TO RAPP II, BUT IS CONFIDENT THAT THIS MATTER CAN BE RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY BECAUSE SETHNA HAS MANY TIMES SAID THAT THERE ARE NO INSUPERABLE OBSTACLES TO SAFEGUARD THOSE FACILITIES IN INDIA WHICH WERE BUILT WITH SUBSTANTIAL FOREIGN HELP. RAPP II IS STILL AN EMOTIONAL ISSUE HERE BECAUSE IT WAS THE FACILITY MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE CANADIAN PULL OUT. SINCE IT CANNOT COME INTO OPERATION IN THE NEXT EIGHTEEN MONTHS WITHOUT FOREIGN SUPPLIED HEAVY WATER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE INDIANS WILL EVENTUALLY AGREE TO PUTTING IT UNDER SAFEGUARDS. IF THE UNITED STATES CAN PROVIDE EFFECTIVE, QUICK HELP FOR RESOLVING THE TARAPUR WASTE STORAGE PROBLEM, CONGEN BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE GOOD PROSPECTS TO GET THE INDIANS TO AGREE TO SOME SORT OF PROCEDURE THAT WOULD AMOUNT TO DE FACTO MOTH BALLING OF THE TARAPUR REPROCESSING PLANT FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR POSSIBLY SEVEN YEARS. THIS PROSPECT WILL, HOWEVER, BE IMPORTANTLY AFFECTED BY OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD RE-

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PROCESSING IN SUCH PLACES AS JAPAN AND GERMANY. EVEN THOUGH THE INDIANS APPARENTLY HAVE NO URGENT NEED TO REPROCESS EXCEPT FOR WASTE HANDLING PURPOSES, THEY WOULD FIND IT HARD TO AGREE, AT LEAST FORMALLY, TO MOTH BALLING THEIR PLANT IF WE GIVE THE GREEN LIGHT TO OTHERS.

5. IMPORTANT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON THE LARGER ISSUES, SUCH AS FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS ON ALL NUCLEAR FACILITIES, WILL DEPEND TO A LARGE EXTENT ON HOW THE REST OF THE WORLD REACTS TO THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAMS AND ON THE EXTENT OF PROGRESS ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. THE INDIANS ARE MOST UNLIKELY TO GET OUT AHEAD OF OTHERS AND THAT IS WHY CONGEN BELIEVES PROSPECTS ARE BEST OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR PROGRESS ON SUCH LIMITED OBJECTIVES AS MOTH BALLING OF TARAPUR REPROCESSING FACILITIES AND SUCH LIMITED SAFEGUARD ACTIVITIES AS MAKING THOSE APPLYING TO RAPP I PERMANENT AND EXTENDING SIMILAR SAFEGUARDS TO RAPP II.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** INDIAN NUCLEAR POLICY  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TECH, IN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009